

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 7, with the following redlined paragraph:

5. The polypeptide according to item 4, wherein the EGF like repeat comprises at least one repeat consisting of CX₃CX₅CX₅CXCX₈CX₄ (SEQ ID NO: 26) where C is cysteine and X is any amino acid.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 11, with the following redlined paragraph:

As used herein, the term "EGF like repeat" refers to a specific domain in Epidermal Growth Factor. It is a repeated sequence having six cysteines in the repeat unit, and in the EGF, it has nine repeats consisting of the repeated unit "CX₇CX₄₋₅CX₁₀₋₁₃CXCX₈C" (SEQ ID NO: 27) wherein X refers to any amino acid. A useful polypeptide for the present invention preferably comprises at least one EGF-like repeat, and more preferably, may have two, three, four or five EGF-like repeats. WIF-1 has five repeats consisting of the repeating unit "CX₃CX₅CX₅CXCX₈CX₄" (SEQ ID NO: 26) wherein X refers to any amino acid. WIF-1 of the present invention has five EGF-like repeats, and the location thereof is as follows: in the case of murine WIF-1 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO: 2), amino acid numbers 182-213, 213-245, 245-277, 278-309 and 310-341. Polypeptides having an EGF-like repeat include notch-1, notch-2, jagged-1, D11-1, DLK and the like. A polypeptide having an EGF-like repeat has been shown to be involved in controlling differentiation of a stem cell in a general sense (WO 97/31467A1), however, no activity has been shown for maintaining pluripotency with blocking or delaying differentiation (i.e. maintaining the undifferentiated state) until the present invention discloses such activity in WIF-1, and therefore, the significance of the present invention should be acknowledged.

Application No. 10/507,543
Reply to Notice re Sequence Disclosures
dated February 18, 2005

Please delete the section of the application entitled "Sequence Listing" immediately after the section of the application entitled "Abstract" on page 111 and insert the enclosed Sequence Listing therefor.